

617 31. The method according to claim 28, wherein the sales information transmitted in the step of transmitting the output data indicative of the production quantity determined at the production size determining unit to a flexible manufacturing controller is transmitted via a public information network.

32. The method according to claim 28, wherein the step of manufacturing the production quantity of the products includes the step of operating the flexible manufacturing controller to control a plurality of production drive control units for controlling manufacture of the production quantity of the plurality of products determined by the production size determining unit.--

REMARKS

Claims 8-32 are pending in this application. By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants amend the Specification, the Abstract of the Disclosure, cancel claims 1-7 and add claims 8-32.

Applicants have amended the Specification and provided a new Abstract of the Disclosure which correct the informalities contained therein. No new matter is added by the amendments to the Specification and the new Abstract of the Disclosure. Entry of these amendments are respectfully requested.

Applicants have added claims 8-32 to recite additional features of the present invention. No new matter is presented in claims 8-32. Accordingly, entry and consideration of claims 8-32 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner determines that anything further is necessary to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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